

INFORMATION REPORT

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Transjordan/Lebanon

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SUBJECT Activities of King 'Abdullah and of  
 anti-'Abdullah Forces in Lebanon and  
 Transjordan

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SUPPLEMENT TO  
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### Activities of King 'Abdullah

1. Since the beginning of October 1948, King 'Abdullah of Transjordan has reorganized his propaganda methods and he is now giving \$P 50-250 per month to influential newspapers, through his diplomatic representatives in Damascus, Beirut, and Cairo. In Beirut the following publications are profiting from this arrangement: Journaliste Errant, al-Yawn, an-Nahar, Telegraph, al-Bayraq, Le Solr and L'Orient.
2. In addition, 'Abdullah's cause is served by propagandists who have no direct contact with the press. Elie Catafago, a Christian lawyer from Palestine, does propaganda work in Beirut, and in Damascus Nasib Bakri and his brother do similar work, aided by Sa'id Shukayri. Comment. It was reported in 80-19875, issued 16 December 1940, that Bakri and Hasan Hakim had been told by King 'Abdullah that their services would no longer be needed.)
3. 'Abdullah has increased his secret funds by \$P 50,000, for the purpose of hiring one hundred additional spies to report to him on the activities of anti-'Abdullah forces.

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### Activities of Anti-'Abdullah Forces in Lebanon and Transjordan

4. After a truce which lasted three months, the Liberal Party of Dr. Suhhi Abu-Ghanimah has resumed its struggle against 'Abdullah in Lebanon. Abu-Ghanimah, Ahmad Mustafa, Sa'ad Shatilla and Sabri Tabba' are trying to crystallize anti-'Abdullah feeling in Lebanon, where the decisions of the Jericho Conference were diversely received by the population. Comment. Abu-Ghanimah was reported, as recently as 1 September 1948, to have urged 'Ali Jawdat Bey to join an anti-Hashimite movement, saying that there were strong leaders in Transjordan, Palestine, and Iraq who were ready to go the limit in overthrowing 'Abdullah and uniting Syria, Iraq, and Transjordan. Informant is under the impression that Abu-Ghanimah receives funds from American sources.)

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5. Public opinion in Amman, Transjordan, is divided on the subject of the annexation of Arab Palestine to Transjordan. The Beni Sakhr tribesmen, who are known as confirmed partisans of the Hashimites, are no longer loyal to them, and some of the tribal leaders, such as Abu-Ataya Pasha, are against annexation. Their opinion is shared by merchants and industrialists who fear that the expenses of the kingdom of 'Abdullah will increase to great proportions and that Transjordan alone will assume the job of aiding the Palestinian refugees. The enlistment of Palestinian officers in the Transjordan army is regarded with suspicion, and discontent is developing in that body.

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